

HCS HB 665 -- AMINO ACID-BASED ELEMENTAL FORMULAS

SPONSOR: Franklin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Social Services by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill adds amino acid-based elemental formulas to the list of formulas provided by the Department of Health and Senior Services for the treatment of specified inherited diseases, subject to appropriations. The bill includes elemental formulas used for the treatment of a patient with immunoglobulin E and nonimmunoglobulin E mediated allergies to multiple food proteins, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, eosinophilic disorders, and impaired absorption of nutrients caused by disorders affecting the absorptive surface, functional length, and motility of the gastrointestinal tract. For the purposes of the bill, "amino acid-based elemental formulas" means formulas made from single nonallergenic amino acids.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill creates insurance coverage for amino acid-based formulas. Infants and young children can have allergies to cow, sheep, and goat milk that prohibits them from consuming normal formula or milk. Milk allergies can be very severe for children and can cause extreme vomiting, dehydration, diarrhea, or severe inflammation of the esophagus. The bill creates a mandate so that children with a milk allergy would receive the same coverage under private insurance that they would receive under WIC or Medicaid. There are only 77 children in Missouri that require this coverage; however, for families it can be a big burden and the average cost per family to purchase the amino acid-based formula is \$5,000 per year.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Franklin; Kedzie Kratzer; Renee Martin-Kratzer; and Katie Schmuke.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.